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April 30, 2003 LB 209, 806

SENATOR CHAMBERS: We're taking their word for it. We just want them to give it to us, and this person wouldn't. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I didn't intend to be in an advocate type position, but I would like to explain that I've never handled a case like this. do know the county attorney that's involved in this. I do know If you look...if you would see judges that are involved. the affidavits that were submitted to the Business and Labor Committee, you will see that most of the time, these cases, on a defense standpoint are handled by an up-front \$500, \$650, or whatever else, to defend, plus whatever may be in connection with the appeal matters. Why did the other people document the time basis that the Business and Labor Committee has requested? It's primarily, I'm certain, because when they submitted their bill, the judge before whom they submitted that bill had requested that they have a documentation of time. You can see the amounts of their particular claims were in a les round number than the \$500. But if you would see the affidavits that we have here, you would see that these attorneys who were on the other side of these cases had exerted considerably more time and effort than what the \$500 would amount to in these cases. So I suppose that our district judge is not intending to be ignoring the Legislature. That's not the purpose of this. Was trying to establish a dollar value for these cases throughout. Some would be more and some would be less. But to come to a flat amount. There was not a time record required by the judge. The judge entered an order of the district court, saying that the county attorney who was required by law to do this function was entitled to the sum of \$500 for this function. These matters have now been resolved for the future by LB 209, which was Senator Bromm's bill that clarifies the responsibility and the requirements under the administrative law proceedings. So once again, I would simply tell you that, suppose that...suppose you're going to have a laborer do some work for you, and he says, I want a... I want this bill. Well, how much will you charge for doing it? He says, well, I'll do it for \$500. Okay.